REMARKS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claim rejections set forth in the Office Action dated March 16, 2006.

Summary

Claims 1, 3 – 7, 9, 12, 14 -18 are allowed. Claim 10 was cancelled.

Claims Rejections

Claims 10 -11 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohsumi (U.S. Patent No. 6,816,214). Applicant has cancelled Claim 10. Dependent Claim 11 depends from allowable Claim 1, so is allowable for at least this reason.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons presented above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Gustavo Siller, Jr. Registration No. 32,305 Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE P.O. BOX 10395 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610 (312) 321-4200